Making fire fighting system integral part of disaster management system

3083. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the increasing urbanisation and industrialization is resulting in greater fire hazards, Government have considered the question of upgrading the existing fire fighting system to make it an integral part of the country's disaster management system; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government is this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir. "Fire Service" is a State subject. Fire Service is already an integral part of the disaster management system in the States and is pressed into service to assist the administration in rescuing the people and saving property whenever required.

(b) The Government of India has been assisting the State Fire Services by providing financial assistance to the State Governments. During the period 1980 to the year 2001 an amount of Rs. 293.20 crore was provided to the State Governments as soft loan from General Insurance Corporation for the construction of fire station buildings and for the purchase of capital fire fighting equipments. An amount of Rs. 80 crore and Rs. 201 crore respectively were released to the State Governments for the modernisation of Fire Services by the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission respectively.

Setting up of posts along Gujarat and Rajasthan borders

3084. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six new border posts are proposed to be set up along the international border both in Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the places where these would be set up; and

(c) by when these would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government have taken a decision to deploy same floating Border Out Posts (BOPs) in the Creek areas of Gujarat sector on the Indo-Pak border. These would be operational in about 2 years time.